

COUNTIES (MD/PA)	<u>Baltimore / York</u>
M&D milestone no.	<u>50(53)A</u>
MHT-HSI no. with	<u>BA-1569</u>

FIELD SHEET: MASON &amp; DIXON LINE, MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA BOUNDARY MARKER SURVEY

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: N/A

1950 Inspection notes (present order no. - , photo no. -) as in Bayliff, 1959,  
Appendix C, p. -  
(not recorded)

SURROUNDING PROPERTY OWNERS (MD/PA): names, addresses, phones N/A  
MD: tax map , block , P. , deed / , acres

PA: tax map , block , P. , deed / , acres

Assisted by

Also see: reverse side X , B&W photos , negatives , color slides , maps ,  
MHT-HSI form , other X

## NOTES

For the record, the explanation given in the Report of the 1900-03 Resurvey by the engineer is helpful in understanding how the Maryland Historical Society first acquired this monument (MGS Vol. VII, 1908, pp 73-74):

The monument which is now at Baltimore formerly marked the end of the fiftieth mile on the west line, at a point near the village of New Freedom, Pennsylvania, on the Northern Central Railway. On account of an earth cut, made in the construction of a road along the line at that point, which left the monument on the slope of a caving bank, the stone fell from its place some years ago and was subsequently removed by a resident of the vicinity, who kept it for a considerable time on his farm and later sent it to Baltimore, where it came into the possession of the Historical Society of Maryland. When the resurvey of the line was taken up and the monument was needed for use thereon, the society offered to furnish an exact facsimile in marble, if allowed to retain the original. As previously stated, this request was approved by the Commissioners, with the proviso that the Historical Society of Pennsylvania should be permitted to make a similar exchange.

For correspondence and minutes of the <sup>1902</sup>Special Committee (Mason and Dixon Line Stone) of the Maryland Historical Society concerning the replica, see: MS 2008 Archives of the Maryland Historical Society: Section III.C.12 Special Projects Committee 1852-1920. The contract for the replica was placed with the Beaver Dam Marble Co. and carried out between May and July 1, 1902.

The brass plate affixed near the top of the east side by the Society reads:  
1763-1766 / BOUNDARY STONE / Mason & Dixon's Line / BETWEEN / Maryland  
& Pennsylvania / "UNITED YET DIVIDED TWAIN AT ONCE."

## B&W PHOTOS/NEGATIVES

## COLOR SLIDES

## MAPS

## OTHER

- 1 page xerox copy of photos taken for use by Ginn & Co. 1956 (northeast corner and southwest corner), MHS-PP37.7.1a and 3a respectively, Harwood collection (duplicate B&W prints of these deaccessioned by MHS as gift to MGS archives)
- 18 pages xerox Special Committee Report 1902 and correspondence 1926

APR 11 10. 1902.  
APRIL 19 1902

5  
H. 71

W. Hall Harris, Esq.,

216 St. Paul St.; Baltimore,

My dear Harris:

I have received the inclosed letter from W. C. Hodgkins in charge of the Mason and Dixon Line Survey and I am inclined to think that he is right in his statement that a letter from you or some other individual, prominent in the Maryland Historical Society, either officially or unofficially should be addressed to the Maryland Commissioner requesting the retention of the stone and stating that you would be willing to make a replica of the same in case the amount involved did not exceed the sum which you have stated. I would then secure the approval of General Latu, the Pennsylvania representative, to the proposition and would gladly sign the same myself which would put the whole thing in complete form and relieve me from embarrassment in case the State of Pennsylvania should later raise a protest if I alone gave the authority. I think I ought to have a letter of formal request on file rather than that I should begin the correspondence by offering the stone to you which would seem very peculiar in case of any investigation of the matter.

I am anxious personally to secure this stone for the Maryland Historical Society and wish to have you look at the matter from my standpoint as Commissioner to see that I am amply protected in the negotiation but as I come to look at it more carefully in the light of Capt. Hodgkins' letter, I am led to believe that I am not, while you doubtless would be in a very safe position, since you could throw the whole thing on me in case the State of Pennsylvania should later raise a protest. I am anxious to do you a service in the matter and will ask you to straighten it out between now and next Thursday when I expect to return from

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Charleston. It is evident that something must be done immediately so  
that Capt. Hodgkins can reset the stone without serious loss of time.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Bullock Clark

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Supreme Bench  
of  
Baltimore City.

April 23rd. 1902.

Dr. William Bullock Clark,

My Dear Sir,

Mr. W. Hall Harris has shown me your letter to him and Mr. Hodgkins' to you, relating to the boundary stone now in the possession of the <sup>Maryland</sup> ~~Wigland~~ Historical Society.

I agree perfectly with you and Mr. Hodgkins in thinking that a request should be made by the Society to the Commissioners for leave to retain it on furnishing a replica, rather than that the Commissioners should suggest to the Society its retention.

The matter will require a little conference, at least, among a few of us, but I have no doubt it will be put in proper shape in a few days.

Very Truly &c.

*Albert Ritchie*

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10  
May 10, 1902.

56.  
5.18.1902  
Jaceu

To The Maryland Historical Society,

Baltimore, Maryland,

Gentlemen:

As the Commissioner for the State of Maryland for the relocation of the Mason and Dixon Boundary Line between that State and the State of Pennsylvania, I have received information that there is in the possession of your Society one of the original stones used in marking said Line, and I beg now to notify you that the same should be surrendered that it may be replaced in its original position.

I am,

Very truly yours,

*Am. Bullock Clark*  
Commissioner &c.

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Baltimore, May 12th, 1902.

William Bullock Clark, Esquire,

Commissioner for the State of Maryland in the

re-establishment of the Mason and Dixon Boundary Line,

Baltimore.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 10th instant, addressed to The Maryland Historical Society, is acknowledged.

The boundary stone referred to came into the possession of the Society a number of years since, from a gentleman who noticed that it had been displaced and removed from its original position by the grading of a road, and that it was being neglected and in imminent danger of defacement or destruction. While the Society has, of course, no desire in any way to resist a proper application for this marker for the purpose of replacement, it is suggested that inasmuch as it came originally into the possession of the Society because of its displacement and disfigurement and that the same risks must, in some degree at least, attach to its replacement, it would be appropriate and desirable that one of these very interesting landmarks be retained in the possession of an historical society in this State, of recognized dignity and permanence, where it would be protected from deterioration or damage and where it would at all times be an interesting monument of the early history of the State, so that while the boundary line would be permanently and definitely marked as heretofore, this interesting historical monument might remain where, it is submitted, it is eminently appropriate it should be.

If such a suggestion should commend itself to your judgment and

next page missing (sorry!)

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56  
5.16.1902  
May 13, 1902.

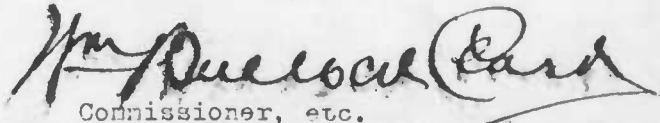
Judge Albert Ritchie,  
President Maryland Historical Society,  
Baltimore, Maryland,

Dear Sir:

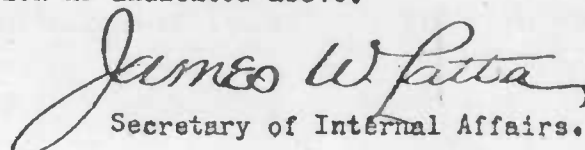
I am in receipt of your communication of May 12, 1902, regarding the Mason and Dixon Line monument in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society. I fully agree with you that "it would be appropriate and desirable that one of these very interesting landmarks be retained in the possession of an historical society in this State, of recognized dignity and permanence, where it would be protected from deterioration or damage and where it would, at all times, be an interesting monument of the early history of the State." Your suggestion that the Maryland Historical Society would be glad to furnish in lieu of the stone in its possession a replica of the same is satisfactory and as Commissioner for the State of Maryland I am prepared to accept the replica from the Society in place of the original stone. As the material out of which the original stone, viz., English Portland oolite, cannot be obtained, I would suggest that a monument made either out of local Beaver Dam marble or Port Deposit granite would be satisfactory.

I am,

Very respectfully,

  
Commissioner, etc.

As the Commissioner from Pennsylvania, I concur in the permission to the Maryland Historical Society to retain possession of the original monument stone now in its custody, on the condition of substitution as indicated above.

  
Secretary of Internal Affairs.

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May 16th, 1902.

William Bullock Clark, Esquire,

Commissioner of the State of Maryland in the

Matter of the re-location of the Mason and Dixon Line,

Baltimore.

Dear Sir:-

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the joint communication of yourself and General Latta, Secretary of Internal Affairs of the State of Pennsylvania, authorizing the retention by The Maryland Historical Society of the Mason and Dixon Line Boundary Stone, now in its possession, upon the substitution by it for replacement in the Line of a replica in such stone as may be satisfactory to the Commissioners. The order for this replica has been given to the Beaver Dam Marble Company which will act under your instructions to proceed immediately with the work.

Permit me to express to yourself and to General Latta the appreciation of The Maryland Historical Society of the courtesy which you have shown to it in this matter, and believe me to be,

Yours very truly,

(signed) Albert Ritchie,

President, Maryland Historical Society.

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Telegraph me at:

My Express Office is:

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Hancock, Md.,

June 30, 1902

56  
7.1.1902  
Saw

2-447

W. Hall Harris, Esquire,  
216 St. Paul Street,  
Baltimore.

Dear Sir:

At the request of Dr. William Bullock Clark, Boundary Commissioner, I beg to inform you that my representative at New Freedom, Pa., received the monument prepared by the Maryland Historical Society to take the place of Original No 50 and that he reports the same as satisfactory.

Respectfully yours,

W. C. Hodgkins

Engineer in Charge,

Mason & Dixon Line Survey.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

R E P O R T

— of —

Special Committee on Mason and  
Dixon Boundary Line Stone.

July 1st, 1902.

MS. 2008 ARCHIVES OF THE MARYLAND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SECTION III. C. 12 SPECIAL PROJECTS  
UNPUBLISHED  
Special Committee, 1857-1920

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Baltimore, July 1st, 1902.

Report of Special Committee on Mason and Dixon Boundary  
Line Stone.

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To the President and Council  
of The Maryland Historical Society.

Gentlemen:-

At a Meeting of the Council of The Maryland Historical Society, held on May 9th, 1902, the following action was had : "On the reading<sup>by</sup> of Mr. Harris of correspondence with the Government and State Officials engaged in replacing the Mason and Dixon Line Stones, Judge Stockbridge moved that the matter of the restoration of the Mason and Dixon Line Stone No. 50, now in the possession of this Society, for replacement in its original position, be referred to a Committee of three to be appointed by the President x x x x with full power and authority to arrange for and on behalf of this Society the retention of the original Stone now in our possession upon the furnishing of a replica, and if such arrangement cannot be made, then to provide for a replica to be retained by this Society provided that no expense shall be incurred by said Committee to be defrayed by the Society. The President appointed the following Committee: Mr. W. Hall Harris, Judge Henry Stockbridge and Mr. Henry F. Thompson".

The correspondence referred to consists of three

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letters, returned herewith,- (1) W. C. Hodgkins to William Bullock Clark, April 17th, 1902; (2) William Bullock Clark to W. Hall Harris, April 19th, 1902; (3) Albert Ritchie to William Bullock Clark (copy) April 23rd, 1902.

Your Committee, after conference with Dr. Clark, received from him a letter of date May 10th, 1902, herewith returned, and upon the twelfth idem the President replied, as per copy also attached. On the sixteenth of the same month Your Committee received a letter addressed to the President of the Society and signed by Dr. Clark, the Commissioner on behalf of the State of Maryland, and General Latta, the Commissioner on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania, in the matter of the re-establishment of the Mason and Dixon Boundary Line; this letter is also filed herewith, and to it the President responded on the same date, as shown by copy of his letter also attached.

Your Committee thereafter made a contract with the Beaver Dam Marble Company, under which there has been completed an exact replica in a dark shade of Beaver Dam marble, not unlike the color of the original boundary stone, the markings upon the original stone, as well as the coats of arms, being carefully copied: This replica has been boxed and shipped, according to directions received from Captain Hodgkins of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in charge of the work, to New Freedom, Pennsylvania, and Your Committee has now from Captain Hodgkins an acknowledgment of the receipt of this replica which he states is reported to him as being satisfactory, and has extended to Captain Hodgkins a proper recognition of his courtesy in the matter; this letter and copy of reply are also returned

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to you.

Your Committee submits that inasmuch as the attached correspondence evidences the circumstances and authority under which this original monument is retained in the possession of The Maryland Historical Society, it is advisable that this Report and said correspondence be properly preserved among the Archives of the Society in case of future doubt or question, and it would suggest that some note be made upon these papers referring to the proceedings of the Society and the correspondence had with Mr. Burton at the time when this monument was originally placed in the possession of the Society.

The cost of the replica and the expenses incident to its boxing and shipping have been fully discharged and the Society has incurred no responsibility in the premises.

It will be interesting to the Council to be advised that the example set by this Society has apparently been followed by the Historical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, inasmuch as that body has ordered from the Beaver Dam Marble Company a duplicate replica of the original Boundary Stone No. 50, but whether that Society has arranged to exchange such replica for one of the original stones or purposes merely to preserve in its collection the replica itself, Your Committee is not advised.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

*W. Hall Harris*

*Henry Stoddard*  
Special Committee.

*Mr. H. F. Thompson of the Committee,  
has been abroad since June 1902.)*

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*Garrett Hill, Baltimore County, Md.,  
April 17, 1902*

Dr. William Bullock Clark,  
State Geologist and Boundary Commissioner,  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of April 15, enclosing one of same date from W.Hall Harris, Esquire, in regard to the Mason and Dixon Line monument now in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society and which formerly marked the end of the fiftieth mile westward from the north east corner of Maryland.

With reference to the proposal contained in Mr.Harris's letter that you and I should request the Society to retain the monument and to furnish us a replica of the same, I would suggest , to use a homely simile, that this seems like "putting the cart before the horse".

Of course I do not claim any personal authority in this matter and am ready to accept any action taken by the Board of Commissioners, but here is a monument taken from the line and in the illegal possession of a number of highly respectable and presumably law-abiding people. I have gathered from conversation with you that under the present laws of Maryland we can recover from individuals monuments so held. That being the case, I should suppose that the same law would apply to a society.

My own view of the matter is that the Society ought to promptly surrender the monument for replacing on the line and in this connection I would call your attention to the circular letter concerning the resurvey which you sent out last summer and in which you allude to the removal of this stone. I see no objection to the Society having a plaster cast or replica in stone made for its own use; but if it is desired that such copy should be accepted by the boundary commission for use on the line, leaving the original in the possession of the Society, with a warrant for holding it, I should think it necessary that the request for such action should emanate from the Society and not from the Commissioners.

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As Pennsylvania is equally interested in this matter it would seem that it might be well to consult General Latta, in case such a request should be received.

I would further suggest that, as we are now several miles east of #50 and still working eastward, any prolonged delay is likely to add considerably to the expense of re-setting the monument.

Very respectfully yours,

*W. C. Hodgkins*

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Baltimore, July 1st, 1902.

W. C. Hodgkins, Esquire,  
U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey,  
Hancock, Md.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your favor of 30th ultimo, advising me of the safe arrival of the replica of the Mason and Dixon Boundary Stone No. 50, and am glad to know that the same has been found satisfactory by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

With thanks for the courtesy which you have extended to the Maryland Historical Society in this matter, I am,

Yours very truly,

(signed) W. Hall Harris.

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MASON-DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 50 (53)  
+ MILESTONE 115 (119)

(the crownstone given to MHS + PHS for  
their collection in exchange for replicas)  
Note: replacement replica for 115 was set  
in Ellerslie (Allegany Co) M.D. — (119)

Easton, Maryland,

December 6th, 1926.

Maryland Historical Society,

Baltimore, Maryland;

Dear Sirs;

I have your letter of December 1st relating to the Delaware Boundary matter which we have been considering.

In my examination of 1903 of this line I did not find that any monuments had been moved by any one but a number were broken and some out or practically out of the ground. One was under a railroad embankment and one in a mill pond. In the spring of 1904 Dr. Clark of Maryland Geological Survey wanted two, a "crown stone" and a M & P stone to send to the St. Louis Exposition as part of his exhibit. I got one M & P stone near the south-west corner of Delaware that was not on the line at all. There was a "crownstone" also there but the bottom half was gone so I suggested that a "crown stone" on the line at Maryland that was broken in two parts be taken and repaired and replaced on the line after the Exposition was over. Under his direction I dug up this stone and shipped it to him. Unfortunately Governor Warfield saw these stones there and directed that they be sent to the State House where they are now. I could never get the one returned to the line at Maryland though I wrote both Dr. Clark and the Governor several times regarding the matter. However I took up the matter with the Secretary of State of Delaware and he had an act passed regarding the matter in 1909. In 1910 Senator Dodson of Talbot introduced and passed a similar act which you will find in the Laws of Maryland 1910 Chapter 454, page 404.



If Governor Ritchie should be interested in this matter he might think this law sufficient authority to take some action.

Along the Maryland-Pennsylvania Boundary, on which I was the principal assistant to Captain Hodgkins of the Coast Survey 1900-1903, we found only two stones moved away from the line. One, a "crown stone" at about fifty miles from the east end, had been found out of the ground by a resident of Baltimore who visited that section and he shipped it to the Maryland Historical Society which is the one you have now. Another one from Blair Valley west of the Cumberland Valley had been shipped to the warehouse of the firm of which the shipper was a member and on looking it up we found it in their cellar. This one was sent to the Pennsylvania Historical Society. I believe they required this be done for their consent that the Maryland Historical Society be allowed to retain the one they had. Both Societies furnished a replica in Beaver Dam marble. The Maryland one was placed in the location of the original and the Pennsylvania one was placed in the Cumberland Valley some miles east of the original location. This was also a "crown stone". I believe the Delaware Historical Society has a "crown stone" that was found near the north-east corner of Maryland that had never been placed on the line.

My notes show that the stone the Maryland Historical Society has was number 50, counting the north-east corner of Maryland as zero or initial monument.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Blair.

\* No. Relocated on higher ground (A. Martin 4/80)

2413/80 from gallery VF, 14HS; Boundary Markers - Mason - Ocean Line Stone Markers

Ans Dec 10

Easton, Maryland,

December 6th, 1926.

Maryland Historical Society,

Baltimore, Maryland;

Dear Sirs;

I forgot to state in my other letter of to-day that the law you refer to as protecting the boundary markers was introduced by General Joseph B. Seth, Senator from Talbot who was at that time President of the Senate, and will be found in Laws of Maryland 1906, Chapter 782, page 1305. It also provides for the return of stones that have been removed.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Blair.

2/15/80 from gallery VF, HAS Boundary Markers, Mason-Dixon Line Stone Marker



Mason + Dixon Line - Milestone No. 50. <sup>PP37.7.1a</sup>

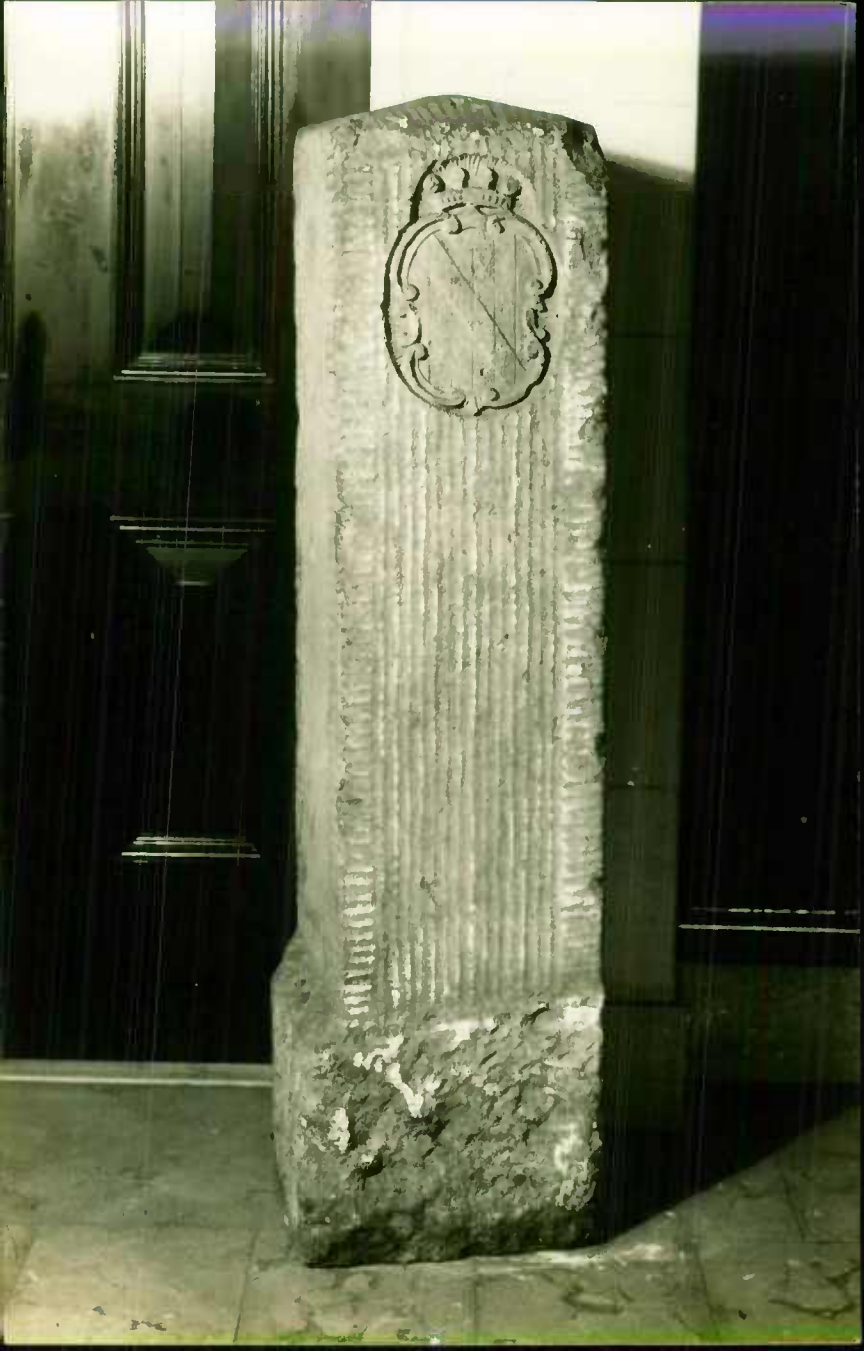
VIEW OF N.S. (PENNSYLVANIA) FERRY DOCK OF 1813  
IN MUSEUM COLLECTION OF MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

PHOTO: C. 1956  
(USED BY GINN & CO. 1956)

Duplicate photo deaccessioned 12/24/81  
BY HAS FROM PP37 HARWOOD COLL.  
AS GIFT TO HGS

50088





MASON + Dixon Line - Milestone No 50. (original)  
PP37.7.3a

VIEW OF SP (MARYLAND) : CALVERT CLAY OF ARIK  
IN MUSEUM COLL. OF MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Photo:

(c. 1956)

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